



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: January 17, 2003
EXPIRATION DATE: February 17, 2003
REFERENCE NUMBER: M-2000-0357
WATERWAY NUMBER: Kobuk River 22

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Design and Engineering Services Division, Northern Region, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5399.

LOCATION: The airport reconstruction is located at the Kobuk Airport, in Sections 33 and 34, Township 18 N., Range 9 E., and Section 3, Township 17 N., Range 9 E., Kateel River Meridian, at Latitude 66°54'46"N, Longitude 156°53'30"W, at Kobuk, Alaska.

WORK: The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is proposing to modify the existing permit by placing an additional 124,750 cubic yards of fill on 4.8 acres of wetlands and by dredging an additional 4.8 acres of wetlands. The new totals of fill in wetlands will be 317,750 cubic yards on 18.2 acres with 6.7 acres of dredging in wetlands. Wetlands affected are palustrine emergent and shrub/shrub. The changes include raising the runway 4 feet, widening the bottom of the new drainage swale from 3 to 18 feet, building outboard threshold pads to support runway lights, building navigation aids and support system (short access road and pad) and building a 1730-foot temporary haul road.

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities proposes to raise the grade of the runway 4 feet to prevent permafrost degradation. The grade raise will begin on the west end of the runway and tapers down to original design elevations about two thirds across the runway length. The grade raise expands the footprint of the runway at the west end by 3.1 acres with an additional 103,333 cubic yards of fill.

The added width of the new drainage swale is needed to maintain swale drainage as melting permafrost degrades soil slopes over time. To minimize erosion, the swale will be lined with 8 inches of gravel. Excavated material will be used as fill within the runway embankment.

Instead of placing threshold runway lights at the end of the runway, pads for runway lights will be constructed on both sides of the runway on the west end

These pads are known as outboard threshold pads. This change allows 300 feet of useable runway at the end of the runway and will affect 0.1 acres of wetland with an additional 1,667 cubic yards of fill.

Navigation aids supported by pads and a short access road will be located on the northwest end of the runway. This change will affect 0.4 acres with 6,300 cubic yards of fill. This work consists of Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and pad, short equipment access road with culverts, wind cone and pad, and PAPI control building and pad.

To avoid routing heavy equipment traffic through Kobuk, a temporary road to move supplies from Dahl Creek Airport to the Kobuk construction site is proposed. The road will be 1,730 feet long and 20 feet wide and connects Dahl Creek road with airport property. This road will address noise, dust and safety concerns from heavy equipment operating on narrow and populated streets. This change will affect 1.3 acres of wetlands with the temporary placement of an additional 13,450 cubic yards of fill. After airport construction is complete, all road fill will be removed down to original ground elevation and seeded with native grass.

The project is scheduled to take three years to complete, beginning in spring 2003 with completion by December 2006. All special conditions of the original permit will be complied with.

PURPOSE: To improve safety and upgrade the Kobuk airport facility to current FAA standards

MITIGATION: The applicant has stated the following actions or measures will be taken to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to the aquatic environment:

Existing runway embankment not needed for airport improvements will be removed and seeded, reverting about 3.0 acres of wetlands. Excavation and filling of drainages will be done when the ground is frozen. Project footprint will be staked before construction and the stakes will be maintained through the life of the project. Silt fences will be installed along the embankment toe of slopes to mitigate runoff into wetlands including silt fences at the connection to Oxbow Lake at the north end and at the connection to the natural drainage at the south end. Fill into wetlands will initially be placed by advancing fill from previously prepared embankments to minimize impacts to surrounding wetlands. All fill material and equipment within wetlands will remain within the staked construction limits.

All equipment operations and equipment servicing will occur on existing embankments, outside of wetland areas. Fuel and motor oil will be stored in double-walled tanks, or lined containment berms greater than 100 feet from wetland areas and 200 feet from streams or water bodies. Material sites and access to material sites will be located in upland areas only. Best Management Practices will be used to mitigate potential short-term erosion impacts during construction. A drainage channel to connect Oxbow Lake with the Kobuk River will be constructed to maintain fish passage between these water bodies. No refueling or fuel storage will occur within 200 feet of any waterway.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Management and Budget, Division of Governmental Coordination has concurred with the applicant's certification.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996, 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts which the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving Section 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Jim Wolfe at (907) 753-2716 or toll free in Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

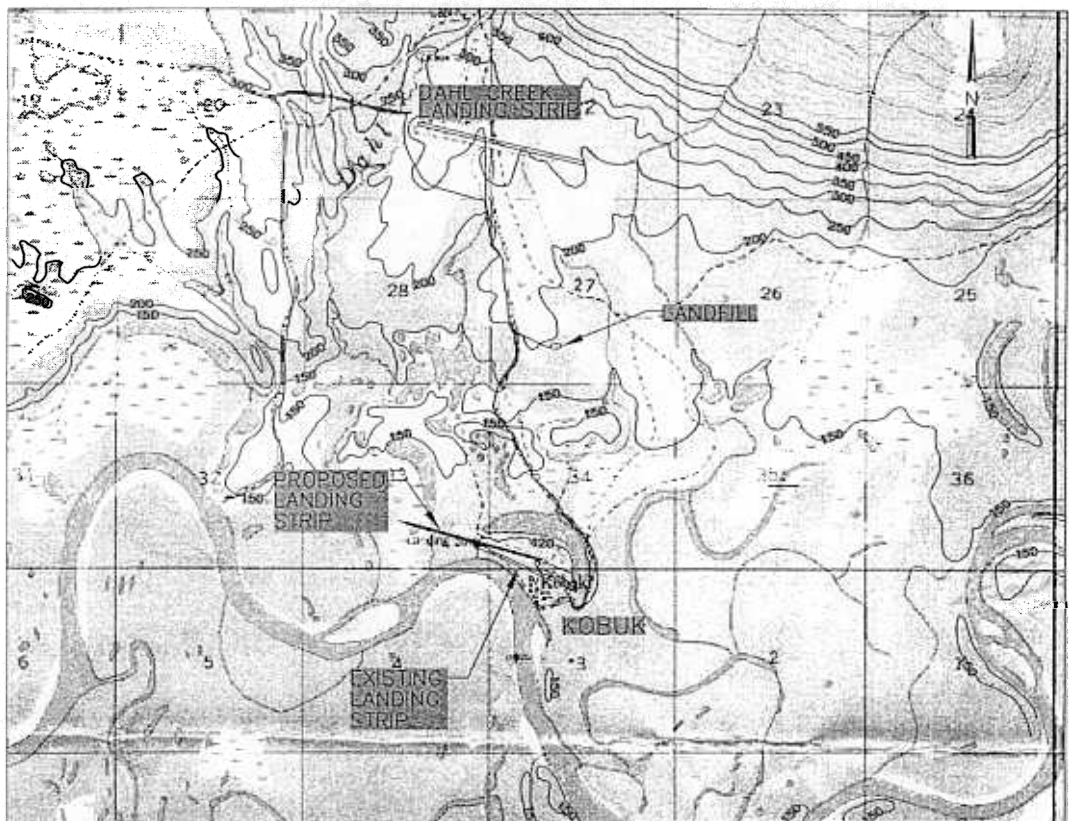
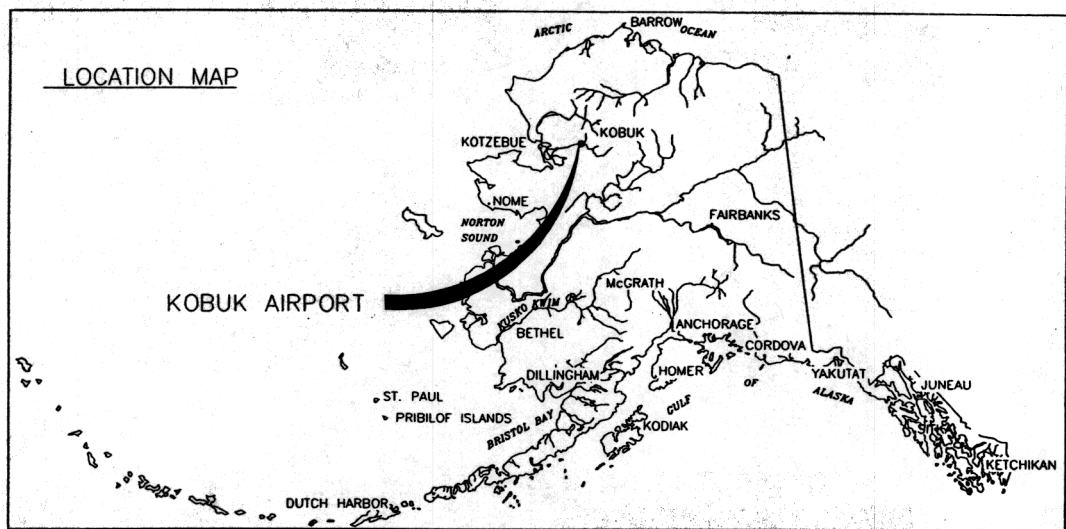
AUTHORITY This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments



VICINITY MAP

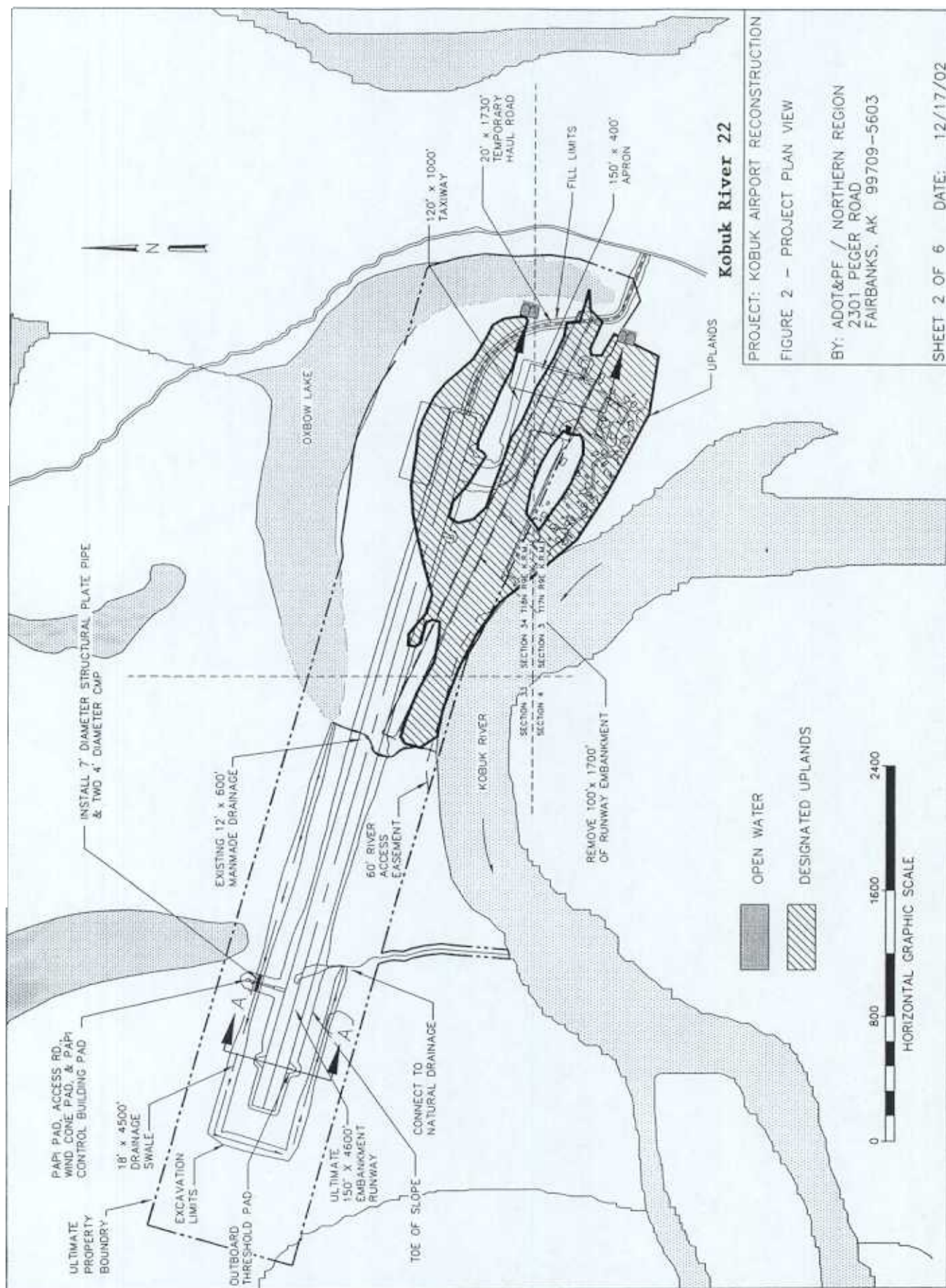
Kobuk River 22

PROJECT: KOBUK AIRPORT RECONSTRUCTION

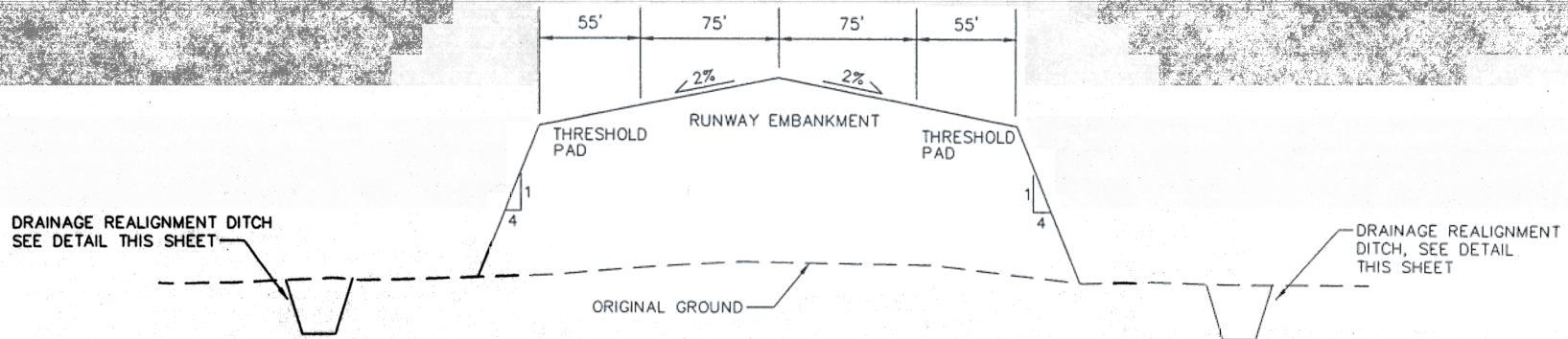
FIGURE 1 - VICINITY MAP

BY: ADOT&PF / NORTHERN REGION
2301 PEGER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709-5603

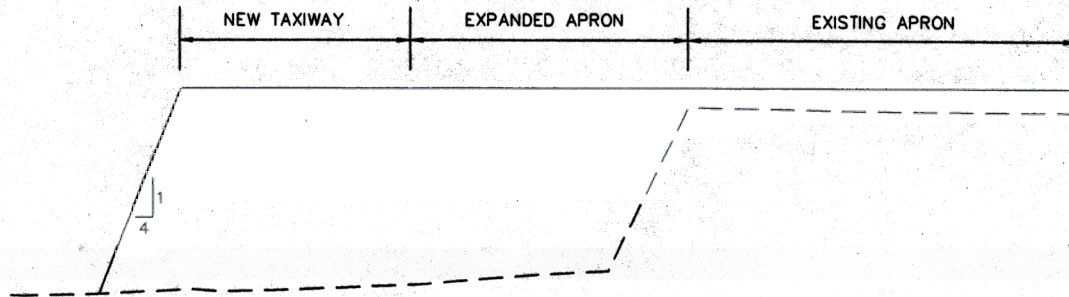
SHEET 1 OF 6 DATE: 12/17/02



SECTION A-A

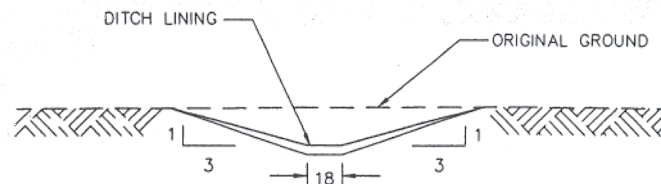


SECTION B-B



HORIZONTAL GRAPHIC SCALE

Kobuk River 22



DRAINAGE REALIGNMENT DITCH DETAIL
(NO VERTICAL EXAGGERATION)
NTS

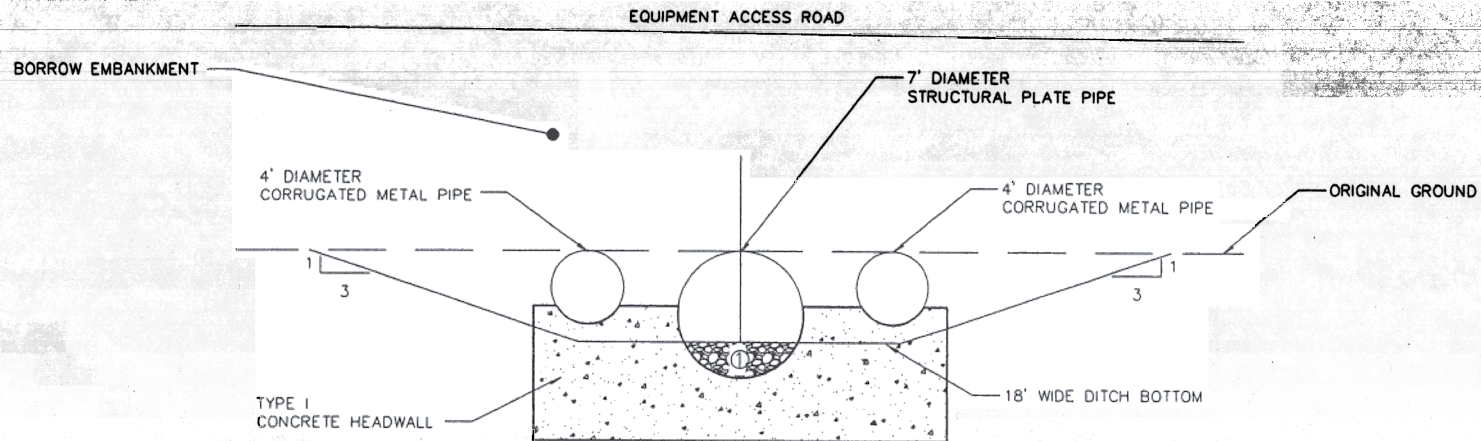
PROJECT: KOBUK AIRPORT RECONSTRUCTION

FIGURE 3 - TYPICAL SECTION

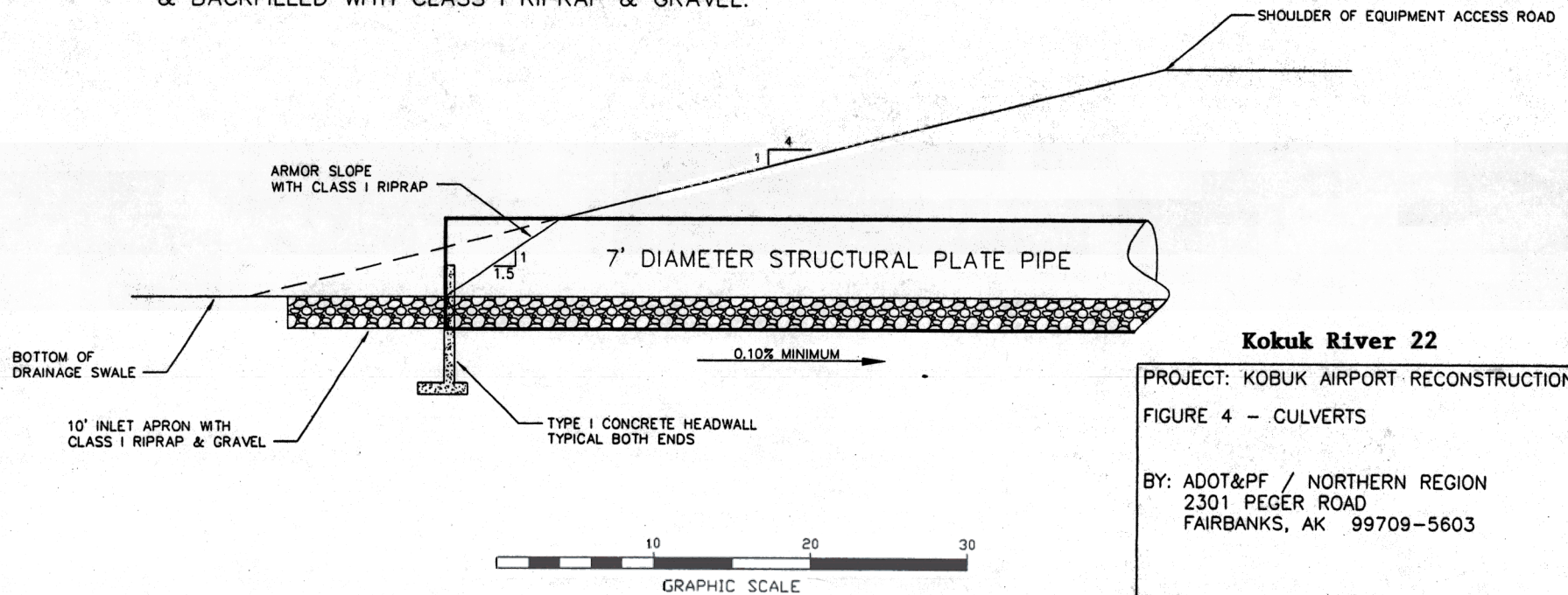
RUNWAY THRESHOLD PADS, APRON, &
DRAINAGE SWALE

BY: ADOT&PF / NORTHERN REGION
2301 PEGER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709-5603

SHEET 3 OF 6 DATE: 12/17/02



① THE BOTTOM OF THE PIPE WILL BE DEPRESSED 2' & BACKFILLED WITH CLASS I RIPRAP & GRAVEL.



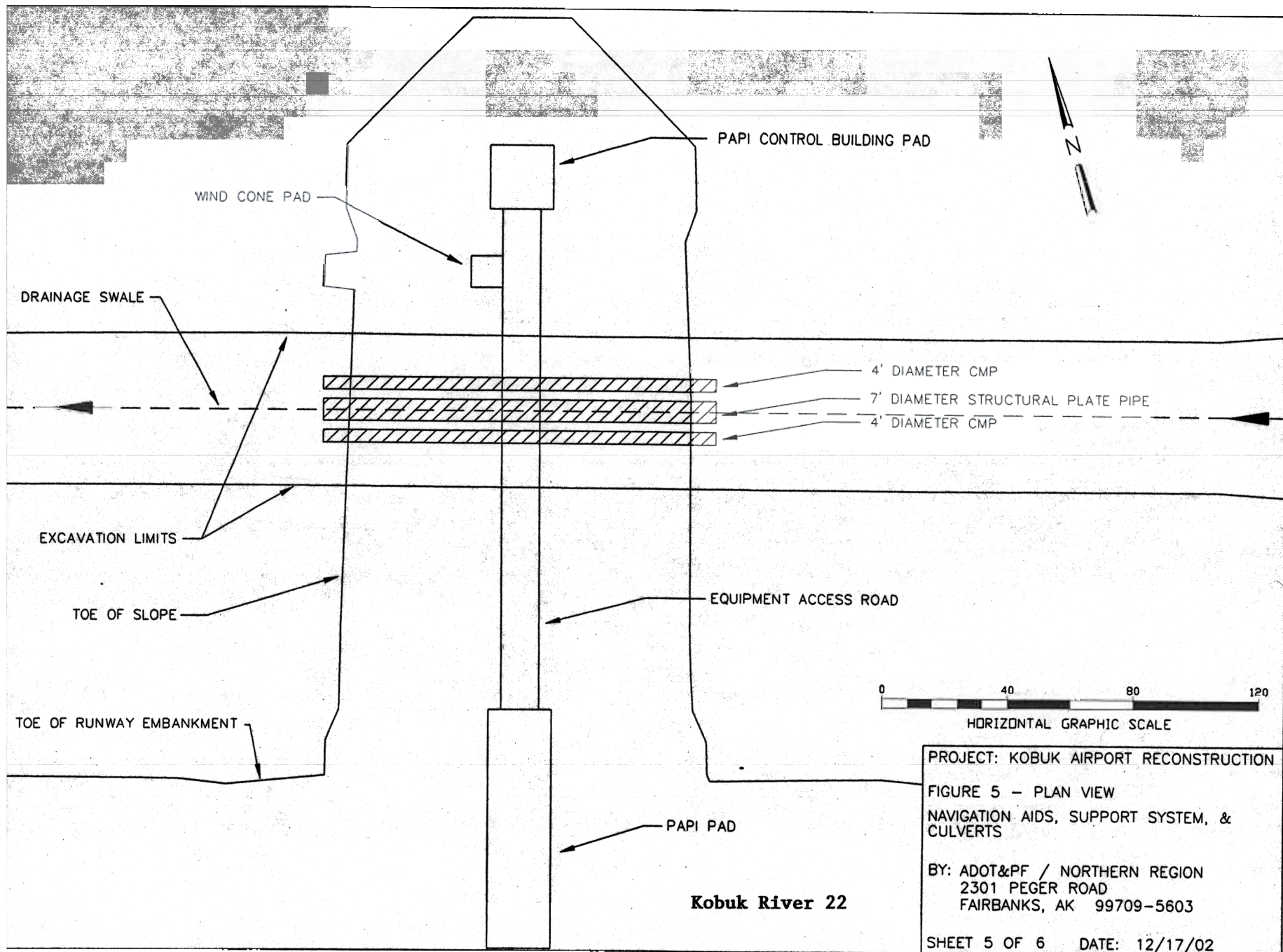
Kokuk River 22

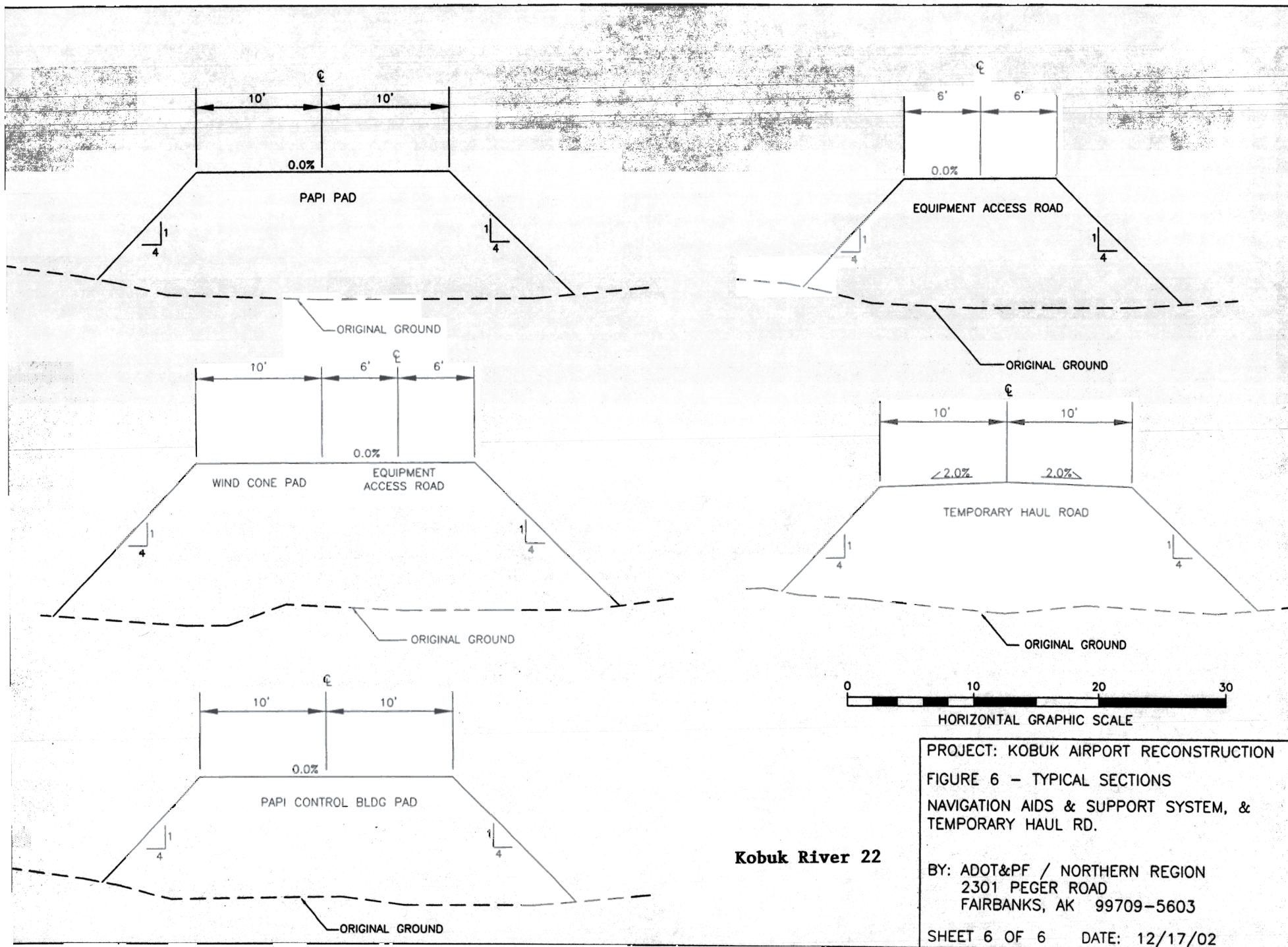
PROJECT: KOBUK AIRPORT RECONSTRUCTION

FIGURE 4 - CULVERTS

BY: ADOT&PF / NORTHERN REGION
2301 PEGER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709-5603

SHEET 4 OF 6 DATE: 12/17/02





STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1660

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3568

PHONE: (907) 269-7470/FAX: (907) 269-3981

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Division of Governmental Coordination for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No **M-2000-0357**, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

This project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Written comments about the consistency of the project with the applicable ACMP statewide standards and district policies must be submitted to the Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination. For information about this consistency review, contact DGC at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the DGC web site at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html>.

Attachment 3

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF AIR AND WATER QUALITY

Non-Point Source Control Section

401 Certification Program

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION**

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No **M-2000-0357**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-7564
FAX: (907) 269-7508